CD/PV.637
21 January 1993

ENGLISH

FINAL RECORD OF THE SIX HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Thursday, 21 January 1993, at 12.20 p.m.

President: Mr. Celso Luiz Nunes Amorim (Brazil)

GE.93-60127 (E)

The PRESIDENT: I declare open the 637th plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

I shall now turn to requests from non-members to participate in the work of the Conference. Since, so far those requests seem to be acceptable, I hope that we can dispense today with convening an informal meeting to review them. This has been done by the Conference on previous occasions, when no opposition was signified to any of the requests. If I hear no comments, and without in any way setting a precedent for other cases when an informal meeting might be necessary, we will start our consideration of the draft decision circulated by the secretariat in document CD/WP.438 on the participation of non-members in the Conference. I understand the document was already circulated and if I hear no objections, I shall take it that the Conference adopts the draft decision.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: I wish also to inform you that other requests for participation received from non-members are being circulated and will be put for decision at our next plenary meeting on Tuesday, 26 January.

In connection with the decision that we have just taken, I wish to recall the statement made by my predecessor at the 603rd plenary meeting on 22 August 1991 on seating arrangements for non-member participants in our work:

> "As regards seating arrangements, non-member participants shall be seated in meetings following the English alphabetical list, beginning with the non-member whose name will be drawn by lot by the President immediately after the initial decision is taken by the Conference at the beginning of the year on requests for participation, and rotate at the same time as the Conference."

I shall proceed to do so after adjournment of this plenary meeting, with the assistance of the secretariat.

I have on my list of speakers for today the representative of Turkey, Mr. Arar, to whom I now give the floor.

Mr. ARAR (Turkey) (translated from French): Mr. President, allow me first of all to congratulate you upon your election to the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament. I am convinced that at a time when this Conference is on the threshold of initiating an important reform, your diplomatic skills and personal qualities will make an effective contribution to this difficult endeavour.

I have taken the floor to express the views of my delegation on the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations entitled "New dimensions of arms regulation and disarmament in the post-cold-war era", which was published on the occasion of Disarmament Week and dated 23 October 1992, under General Assembly reference A/C.1/47/7. At first glance one notes that this

report is generally structured around the principal theme of expanding the role of the United Nations in efforts to achieve international disarmament. We consider that it is realistic to present disarmament as envisaged in the report, as an instrument for establishing international peace and mutual trust among States. In our view too, disarmament can be justified at the international level only if it is seen as a means of achieving peace rather than as an end in itself. The current period offers us a historic opportunity in the globalization of disarmament. In other words, the time is ripe for disarmament to become a reality for the entire international community rather than confining itself to a specific situation in which East and West go through important stages.

My delegation shares the views of the Secretary-General set out in the first and second parts of his report, entitled respectively "Integration: Disarmament in the new international environment" and "Globalization: Enhancing the multinational approach". However, in the first part a narrow view of disarmament which reduces it to the mere neutralization of armaments in the framework of peacemaking and peacekeeping operations did not escape our attention. In other words, my delegation had the impression that disarmament was to some extent confused with the concept of neutralization. In our view a conceptual distinction is necessary between instruments such as the Treaty on conventional forces in Europe or the chemical weapons Convention and, for example, neutralization measures undertaken in Iraq under Security Council resolutions. We consider that it would be more correct to perceive disarmament efforts in this new international order as international legal arrangements that can succeed only through global negotiations that are open to all interested States. Thus they are not isolated cases of neutralization of armaments or demobilization. Moreover, the passage in paragraph 13 on a possible United Nations response to grave violations of disarmament agreements or of other threats to peace gives further grounds for thinking that it reduces the meaning of disarmament as mentioned in the Iraqi example. In our view any breach of a disarmament agreement that had previously been negotiated among parties, or any violation of disarmament-related provisions of treaties signed pursuant to peace conferences, are also acts that are of equal gravity and warrant a clear response. My delegation would have preferred this report to focus more on this latter question. As to the general approach which we find in this first part of the report, in so far as it stipulates the complementarity of conflict prevention measures and disarmament, this approach fully corresponds with the views of my delegation.

In the second part, which is entitled "Globalization: Enhancing the multilateral approach", emphasis is given to the evils of the conventional arms race and excessive transfers of arms. Attention is very rightly drawn to the alarming situation in the Middle East. Yet on reading this section it would appear that the danger of nuclear armaments takes second place to the conventional threat. That does not correspond to our way of thinking because despite the recent positive results achieved in the field of disarmament, the risks of proliferation in this field mean that the nuclear threat continues to grow. It would therefore be preferable to give equivalent attention to these two dangers in this part of the report.

(Mr. Arar, Turkey)

We fully concur with the views of the Secretary-General concerning weapons of mass destruction, efforts to prevent proliferation, arms transfers and transparency in armaments and other confidence-building measures, as set out in the third part of the report, entitled "Revitalization: Building on past achievements". A very important element which emerges from this study is the clear demonstration of the fact that disarmament is becoming more and more everybody's business. My delegation fully endorses the viewpoint expressed in paragraph 18 that United Nations bodies in particular can play a much more significant role in the globalization of disarmament. Of course, this paragraph is directly linked to paragraph 45, in which the Secretary-General puts forward the idea that the time has come to proceed from exploratory discussions to practical actions in redefining the role of the Conference on Disarmament. My delegation expresses its appreciation to Ambassador Servais of Belgium for having undertaken consultations on this subject, and feels that this year the Conference must focus on this crucial issue. We think that it is time for the Conference on Disarmament to recognize the far-reaching changes that have occurred in the world and to adjust its priorities accordingly. This will require a restructuring of this body and a readaptation of its agenda. This exercise requires a focusing on more pragmatic objectives so as to allow discussion of subjects directly linked with international security. During that exercise changes in the membership of the Conference deserve indepth consideration.

The radical changes taking place in the world compel much broader participation in the work of the Conference as well as in sharing its responsibilities in order to arrive at global programmes of disarmament with as many inputs as possible. The status quo in this body will not serve that cause. We must consider ways and means of opening the Conference up to other members of the international community which are prepared to contribute to its activities in an effective manner. Allow me to recall that Turkey, a country which plays a positive role in the area of arms control and disarmament in Europe and other regions of the world, has already informed all the parties concerned of its intention to take part in and contribute actively to the work of the Conference with the status of a full member.

In general terms this report of the Secretary-General, while it makes a realistic assessment of the present situation and the needs arising from it, does not identify specific action to be undertaken under the aegis of the United Nations regionally and internationally to meet these needs. The explanation for this situation may be that the report is an inventory which has been prepared to draw attention to the various aspects of disarmament. To be more precise, we have before us a document which is the product of serious work and which warrants consideration in the framework of international disarmament efforts. We hope that this report will mark the first phase of complementary

conceptual and detailed work to be done in the future by the relevant United Nations bodies in the field of disarmament.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of Turkey for his statement and for the kind words addressed to the Chair. I have no other delegation inscribed to speak today. Does any other member wish to take the floor? If not, I now give the floor to the Secretary-General of the Conference and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General for a statement concerning services to be allocated to the Conference.

Mr. BERASATEGUI (Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations): We are mandated by the General Assembly to report to the Conference on the services to be assigned to it during the 1993 session. As in previous sessions, the Conference will be allocated 10 meetings per week with full servicing, and 15 meetings per week with full services during the sessions of the Seismic Group. In other words, we should be able to hold two daily meetings with full servicing throughout the whole of the 1993 session, plus one additional daily meeting when the Seismic Group is in session.

As the work of the Conference intensifies, it may be necessary to hold meetings of subsidiary bodies consecutively with other committees or working groups. This practice has in the past prevented the waste of allocated resources in the event of early adjournment of meetings. In this respect, punctuality in starting meetings of the Conference is also important. It is also understood that meetings with full services cannot be held in the evening or during weekends.

I also wish to recall that measures accepted by the Conference at the informal meeting held on 22 April 1986 concerning savings in documentation continue to be valid. In order to implement these decisions, all documents need to be presented well in advance and duplication of documentation should be avoided.

Another question which I should like to address is the need for the secretariat to have as soon as possible the letters of accreditation of all delegations, so as to extend the passes granting access to the Conference's rooms, because of other important meetings at the highest level of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia to be held close to the area of the Council Chamber during the coming days. Security measures are being strengthened and members will be requested by security personnel to identify themselves. Those other meetings will begin this weekend and continue early next week. May I suggest that members carry with them either the CD passes or at least the identification provided by the United Nations Office at Geneva?

As regards conference room facilities available for the CD, they will be - in addition to the Council Chamber - room I, the conference room on the sixth floor in the area of the Disarmament secretariat and either rooms C-108 or H-3, depending on the overall requirements facing the Conference Services Division of the United Nations Office at Geneva. I wish only to suggest that, when

delegations need such facilities for their consultations, they kindly address a request to the Conference Officer, Ms. Pasqualin, who is responsible for assigning such services, in order to avoid any overlapping.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the Secretary-General of the Conference and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General for his statement. We have now concluded our business for this plenary meeting, except for the presidential statement on the organization of work, so may I ask now whether we are ready to proceed? Ambassador of India, may I ask you personally if we are ready to proceed? Ambassador of India, you have the floor.

Mr. CHANDRA (India): Mr. President, I haven't yet received what I had expected and I leave it up to you to decide how we should proceed.

The PRESIDENT: From what I understand, we have now two possibilities that I discussed in the preparation of work. I don't want to go into them again in this formal meeting, so unless I hear anything to the contrary, I will suspend the meeting and take it up again as soon as possible in the afternoon. I have to ask the secretariat what is "as soon as possible in the afternoon" in terms of interpretation and other services.

Mr. BERASATEGUI (Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations): Any time from 3 p.m.

The PRESIDENT: So, given that information, I think I shall now suspend this plenary meeting and resume at 3 p.m. sharp. Ambassador Ledogar of the United States has the floor.

Mr. LEDOGAR (United States of America): I, and the other members of my delegation, have a number of appointments this afternoon. We had not in any way planned for a plenary session of the Conference on Disarmament. On the other hand, some of these other appointments can be readjusted, but I would not want to be required to come back here and wait for another two and a half hours for suspected telephone conversations. I wonder if there is some positive way that we could know that if we had to come back here and rearrange our calendars, it would be for a purpose, and not just for continued delay.

The PRESIDENT: Thank you, Ambassador Ledogar. I think we should now maybe move to an informal meeting if you agree, because I don't think we should have these exchanges in the record. So if you agree, we are now in an informal meeting.

The plenary meeting was suspended at 12.40 p.m. and resumed at 3.10 p.m.

The PRESIDENT: The 637th plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament is resumed.

As I announced this morning, we shall proceed to the question of the organization of the work of the Conference, as contained in the draft presidential statement circulated this morning by the secretariat. As you know, we suspended the plenary meeting this morning in the expectation that

(The President)

all members would be in a position now to proceed with the presidential statement. Before I proceed to read out the presidential statement, I should like to ask whether we are ready to go along with it now. I hear no remark and no one asking for the floor, so I will now read out the presidential statement.

"1. There is an understanding in the Conference that, at the outset of its 1993 session, the Conference decides to adopt as its agenda the agenda of its 1992 session, while noting that its ongoing consultations on the review of this agenda will be intensified:

1. Nuclear test ban.

2. Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament.

3. Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters.

4. Prevention of an arms race in outer space.

5. Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

6. New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons.

7. Comprehensive programme of disarmament.

8. Transparency in armaments.

9. Consideration and adoption of the annual report and any other report, as appropriate, to the General Assembly of the United Nations.

"2. The Conference further agrees, without prejudice to any future decisions on the organizational framework of other items, to begin its work immediately on: 'Nuclear test ban', 'Prevention of an arms race in outer space', 'Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons' and 'Transparency in armaments'. For this purpose, the Conference establishes ad hoc committees on these items with the following mandates:

- Nuclear test ban: the result of the 1992 consultations conducted by the special coordinator on this item (CD/1179);

- Prevention of an arms race in outer space: document CD/1125;

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- Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons: document CD/1121;

- Transparency in armaments: the decision of the Conference on 26 May 1992 (document CD/1150).

"3. The Conference also recalls its decision to intensify its consultations on its improved and effective functioning, including its decision to carry out consultations on the issues of its membership and agenda. For this purpose, I confirm that I shall appoint two special coordinators to conduct consultations on the issues of membership and agenda.

"Lastly, I understand that it is the intention of interested members to continue their ongoing open-ended informal consultations on non-proliferation in all its aspects."

Mr. AZIKIWE (Nigeria): On behalf of the Group of 21, I should like to make the following statement. The Group of 21 has gone along with the contents of the presidential statement just delivered with the understanding that the course of action agreed to today in no way affects the established priorities in disarmament. It is the hope of the Group that this course of action will allow the Conference to proceed expeditiously with its work at the beginning of the 1993 session.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the Ambassador of Nigeria for his statement in the name of the Group of 21. I have no other business for today and I intend to adjourn this plenary meeting. The next plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament will be held on Tuesday, 26 January, at 10 a.m.

The meeting rose at 3.20 p.m.